In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend claims 1 and 11.

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 8-10, 13, 14, 18-20 and 38.

Claims 22-37 and 39-51 were previously cancelled by Preliminary Amendment.

Please add new claims 52-61.

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for characterizing an apparently healthy individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of a marker of systemic inflammation in the individual,

comparing the level of the marker to a predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications, and

characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing a future diabetes based upon the level of the marker in comparison to the predetermined value, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is a plurality of predetermined marker level ranges and said comparing step comprises determining in which of said predetermined marker level ranges said individuals level falls.

3-4.   Cancelled.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.30 mg/dL of blood or higher.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined marker level is a plurality of predetermined marker level ranges, one of said plurality being below about 0.30 mg/dL of blood and another of said ranges being about 0.30 mg/dL blood, and wherein said comparing step comprises determining in which of said plurality of predetermined marker level ranges said individual's level falls.

8-10.   Cancelled.

11.   (Currently amended) A method for characterizing an individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:
    obtaining a level of a marker of systemic inflammation in the individual,
    comparing the level of the marker of systemic inflammation to a first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications to establish a first risk value,
    obtaining a level of a glycosylated hemoglobin in the individual,
    comparing the level of the glycosylated hemoglobin to a second predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications to establish a second risk value, and
    characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing diabetes or diabetic complications based upon the combination of the first risk value and the second risk value, wherein the combination of the first risk value and second risk value establishes a third risk value different from said first and second risk values, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is a first plurality of predetermined marker level ranges and said comparing step comprises determining in which of said first predetermined marker level ranges said individuals level falls.

13-14. Cancelled.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.30 mg/dL of blood or higher.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined marker level is a plurality of predetermined marker level ranges, one of said plurality being below about 0.30 mg/dL of blood and another of said ranges being about 0.30 mg/dL blood, and wherein said comparing step comprises determining in which of said plurality of predetermined marker level ranges said individual's level falls.

18-20. Cancelled.

21.   (Original) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of diabetes or reducing the risk of diabetic complications, the agent selected from the group consisting of insulin, a hypoglycemic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a lipid lowering agent, a calcium channel blocker, a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker, a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, and an angiotensin system inhibitor, comprising:
    obtaining a level of a marker of systemic inflammation in the individual, and
    comparing the level of the marker to a predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications, wherein the level of the marker of systemic inflammation in comparison to the predetermined value is indicative of whether the individual will benefit from treatment with said agents.

22-51. Cancelled.

52.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a hypoglycemic agent.

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53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.30 mg/dL of blood or higher.

55. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood or higher.

56. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the predetermined marker level is a plurality of predetermined marker level ranges, one of said plurality being below about 0.30 mg/dL of blood and another of said ranges being about 0.30 mg/dL blood, and wherein said comparing step comprises determining in which of said plurality of predetermined marker level ranges said individual's level falls.

57. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an insulin.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.30 mg/dL of blood or higher.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood or higher.

61. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the predetermined marker level is a plurality of predetermined marker level ranges, one of said plurality being below about 0.30 mg/dL of blood and another of said ranges being about 0.30 mg/dL blood, and wherein said comparing step comprises determining in which of said plurality of predetermined marker level ranges said individual's level falls.